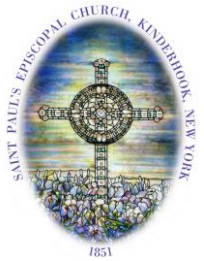


# Saint Paul's Church

Kinderhook, New York

a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany

The Very Reverend Tom Malione, Rector



## ANNUAL ELECTION and MEETING

Sunday, February 11, 2024 • 9:00 a.m.

### VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

The Rector is charged with determining eligibility to vote on the basis of the qualifications summarized on the back of this page and authorized to adjudicate eligibility. Questions may be resolved based on knowledge of an individual's circumstances. If you believe that you meet the qualification criteria on the back of this sheet and do not find your name below, please see the Rector to correct any oversight.

**Briefly stated, the following qualifications apply to voting and to the office of vestry member:**

- Age 18 or older
- Baptized (in any denomination)
- **"Belong to the parish":** Your name is listed in the register of baptisms because:
  - (a) You have not transferred the registration of your baptism to another parish or church,
  - (b) AND one of the following is true:
    - you were baptized at Saint Paul's; OR
    - you have been transferred to Saint Paul's from another Episcopal congregation; OR
    - you were a baptized member of another denomination and confirmed at Saint Paul's; OR
    - you were received into the Episcopal Church from another denomination here.
- **"Regular attendant,"** i.e., "habitually present." It has traditionally meant "present except for serious reasons." [Luke 14:16-33](#) offers important insights into this and the following qualification.
- **Be a "verifiable, regular contributor" of "more than a token amount"** for the twelve months prior to the election. Contributions of time and labor, and donations in kind, are also important.
  - **"Verifiable"** means that we have some reliable documentation of what you have contributed and when. For financial contributions, this usually means giving by check or using an envelope.
  - **"Regular"** giving is not a matter of frequency, but of *fidelity* (faithfulness). "Regularity" implies that contributing to the life of the parish and diocese is part of one's rule [Latin *regula*] (of life), which keeps the volatility of the heart (desires, anger, other emotions, thoughts and opinions, and the ups-and-downs of circumstances and relationships) from interfering with generosity, even in the midst of adversity and temptation.
  - **"More than a token amount"** represents a prayerful discernment (including discernment by the rector in adjudicating qualification to vote); see . The clergy will gladly pray with you as you discern a level of giving. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church has repeatedly affirmed the tithe (10%) as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians. C. S. Lewis describes another approach:

I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditure excludes them. (*Mere Christianity*)